

leadership with offers to sponsor refugees in need. At staging grounds in the South Pacific, our immigration officers worked 14-hour days.

Why is there no similar sense of urgency for the 4.2 million Iraqis displaced and in danger? President Bush himself has yet to speak of the crisis. Although members of his administration claim to have made Iraqi refugees a top priority, admission numbers tell a different story. Only one Iraqi refugee made it through our process to safety in the United States in May, and only one made it the month before. The United States has committed to reviewing 7,000 cases and admitting 3,000 refugees by the end of this fiscal year, in September. That is as many as our team processed in a single day back in 1975.

What has happened to our leadership on this issue?

The administration and Congress cannot waste any more time. Their lack of political will has cost too many people their lives. A bill introduced last week by Sens. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Gordon Smith (R-Ore.), the Refugee Crisis in Iraq Act, would begin this process by swiftly providing increased resettlement options and visas for those at risk because of their association with the United States. The president also should direct that 20,000 unallocated refugee visas from this year be used for Iraqis. Finally, we must increase aid to countries in the Middle East that combined are hosting 2 million Iraqis; this would help ensure that the refugees can stay and that the host countries remain willing to keep their doors open.

Administration officials say that the best solution to the Iraqi refugee crisis is a stable homeland to which refugees can return. No one wants that solution more than the refugees themselves, but conditions in Iraq are not heading in that direction. The humanitarian crisis must not become a pawn in political pronouncements about the state of our efforts in Iraq. This was true with respect to our rescue of Vietnamese refugees, and it is true now. No matter your view of the war, welcoming the persecuted and standing by our friends is the right thing to do.

[From the USA Today, July 19, 2007]

ONE IRAQI ISSUE THAT SHOULD UNITE US ALL (By Lanny J. Davis and Michael Medved)

Iraqis who have aided the U.S.-led mission are already targets. Once the American troops pull back—and they inevitably will—entire families will be left to fend for themselves. We still live with the haunting images from the Vietnam War. This country must not let history repeat itself in Iraq.

The war in Iraq has inspired bitter divisions—over whether America should have intervened, how we conducted the conflict, and how we should get out. But one issue should bring together all factions of the ongoing debate, and that is America's moral obligation to open our doors—immediately—to Iraqis who face danger and death because of their assistance to our forces.

Anna Husarska, a senior policy adviser at the International Rescue Committee, recently offered a chilling report of two Iraqis—a husband and wife team—who worked for the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad and were killed. As Husarska wrote, “A statement on the Internet made clear why: ‘The swords of the security personnel of the Islamic State in Iraq . . . are with God’s grace slitting the throats of crusaders and their aides and lackeys.’”

Another young Iraqi was more fortunate. Several weeks ago, he lost his job as a contractor on a U.S. Army base. Security rules

forced him to leave the base immediately. Driven from the safety of an American enclave within hours, he faced the likelihood that his association with coalition forces would lead almost immediately to his murder—if not by the anti-American insurgents then by his own family, who believed he had dishonored them.

On the other side of the world, a group of U.S. lawyers working pro bono for this young man (including Lanny J. Davis, the co-author of this commentary) learned of his dilemma and interrupted a sunny spring afternoon to try to save his life. SOS calls to congressional VIPs, including staffers of Sens. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., produced a surprisingly quick response. Graham interrupted his weekend and called a senior government attorney in Iraq (late in the evening Iraq time) who had legal authority on this type of situation. A Washington lawyer close to U.S. Army senior officials reached top brass. The result: This Iraqi was placed in another job and allowed to stay on the base.

A CONSTANT RISK

This loyal young man continues working at the U.S. facility in Iraq, but he can't leave or he'll be killed. That is because under current immigration policies, despite his service to our country, he can't find refuge in the land of the free.

Regardless of one's views on the Iraq war, all people of goodwill must recognize that we owe a debt to those Iraqis who risked everything to assist the U.S. dream of a pro-Western democracy in the heart of the Middle East. Recently, the assistant secretary of the State Department's refugees bureau, Ellen Sauerbrey, announced spots for up to 25,000 Iraqis who can qualify for refugee status, but most of those slots remain unfilled.

According to Husarska, 11 were admitted to the USA in February, eight in March, one in April and one in May. Considering the direct peril to some of our closest associates among Iraqis, we need to improve on this pathetic record.

In 1975, we shared the revulsion of nearly all Americans at the awful scenes of Vietnamese civilians hanging on to the last U.S. helicopters, literally by their finger tips, as they took off from the rooftops of U.S. buildings in Saigon. We remember the images of women left behind, holding babies, crying hysterically, their hands reaching into the air as their American protectors abruptly departed. British historian Paul Johnson aptly observed that this moment symbolized “the most shameful defeat in the whole of American history. . . . But it was the helpless people of the region who had to pay the real price.”

In response to that shame, President Ford authorized the admission to the USA of more than 131,000 South Vietnamese refugees. So why not show comparable commitment to Iraqis who have worked closely with our troops and civilian personnel and face dire risks because of their association with the American cause?

Even if the Bush administration succeeds in its determined efforts to stabilize the current Iraqi government, an American departure could still put at risk some of the individuals most closely associated with our long-term role in the country. And even if a greatly reduced contingent of U.S. troops remains in Iraq on a semipermanent basis to battle al-Qaeda (as even the anti-war Senate Democratic resolution stipulated), those soldiers will have their hands full with other assignments without diverting attention to the protection of Iraqi families whose pro-American roles placed them at risk. These people deserve our support, regardless of our dif-

fering positions on ongoing disputes about the war and its execution.

OPENING OUR GATES

Last month, a bipartisan group of senators, including Kennedy, who is anti-war, and Lieberman, who supports the war, introduced legislation that would provide special refugee status for Iraqis who are in danger because of their association with the United States or its contractors. This legislation, or something like it, needs strong support from the administration as well as from citizens across ideological and partisan lines. As the experience with the young Iraqi described above proves, days, even hours, could mean the difference between life and death for people who did nothing wrong other than help Americans.

No one—not even the most fervent critics of the Iraq war—expects that an end to that struggle will bring an overall conclusion to the larger war with Islamo-Nazi terrorists. In the continued battle against jihadist fanatics, the admission to our country of Iraqi Arabs who courageously proved their support of the American cause can only enrich our resources for challenges to come. The language skills and cultural perspective of moderate Iraqis won't damage our society and could play an important role in helping to defend it.

Finally, we must consider our moral obligation here, especially for those who support an immediate or definite timetable for withdrawal of U.S. forces. To deny that obligation, or worse, to ignore it, would tragically stain the legacy of another generation of Americans—whether pro- or anti-war—as did our passivity and indifference to the plight of Vietnamese allies left behind to suffer and die.

CHANGES TO S. CON. RES. 21

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, section 207(c) of S. Con. Res. 21, the 2008 budget resolution, permits the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee to adjust the section 207(b) discretionary spending limits and allocations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 for legislation reported by the Senate Appropriations Committee that provides a certain level of funding for fiscal year 2008 for four program integrity initiatives. The initiatives are continuing disability reviews and supplemental security income redeterminations, Internal Revenue Service tax enforcement, health care fraud and abuse control, and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews.

The Senate Appropriations Committee reported the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008, on June 27, 2007. That bill contains provisions that fulfill the conditions of section 207(c) for adjustments related to continuing disability reviews and supplemental security income redeterminations, health care fraud and abuse control, and unemployment insurance improper payment reviews.

In addition, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2008, on July 13, 2007. That bill contains provisions that fulfill the conditions of section 207(c)

for Internal Revenue Service tax enforcement.

As a result, for fiscal year 2008, I am revising both the discretionary spending limits and the allocation to the Senate Appropriations Committee for discretionary budget authority and outlays. The amount of the adjustment

is \$1,042 million in budget authority and \$699 million in outlays. The revised discretionary limits and allocations for discretionary budget authority and outlays are the appropriate levels to be used for enforcement during consideration of the fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills.

I ask unanimous consent to have the following revisions to S. Con. Res. 21 printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—S. CON. RES. 21; REVISIONS TO THE CONFERENCE AGREEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 207(c) TO THE ALLOCATION OF BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAYS TO THE SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE SECTION 207(b) SENATE DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS

[In millions of dollars]

	Initial allocation/limit	Adjustment	Revised allocation/limit
FY 2008 Discretionary Budget Authority	953,053	1,042	954,095
FY 2008 Outlays	1,028,398	699	1,029,097

SAFE NURSING AND PATIENT CARE ACT

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, every American who has ever visited a hospital knows that nurses are on the front lines of our health care system. Our Nation's nurses treat patients, work with doctors, and perform complex duties critical to providing care to all patients. For these reasons, I am joining Senator KENNEDY in introducing the Safe Nursing and Patient Care Act. I have done so for the last three sessions of Congress and will continue to do so until this vital legislation is enacted.

At the heart of the bill is the belief that nurses should not be forced to work beyond their ability to offer exemplary care to patients. Mandatory overtime requires nurses, given very short notice to work excessive hours in our hospitals and other institutions that provide health care services. Nurses are left with no recourse when mandatory overtime is applied. They continue treating patients, despite fatigue in many instances, impacting the delivery of care to patients. It is time that we answer the call made by nurses from across the Nation to immediately address this issue.

Individual States have begun to respond to this call. Massachusetts is one of several States seeking to tackle adverse nursing conditions and curb requirements of mandatory overtime for its nurses. This bill would give nurses the necessary tools to continue putting patient care first by prohibiting mandatory overtime and providing protections if nurses report cases of it happening. Each year, 98,000 deaths are attributed to medical errors, and so addressing this issue is critical to the safety of our patients and the well-being of our nurses.

The Safe Nursing and Patient Act is the first step toward addressing important issues in our Nation's health care system. Our legislation offers support and protections to nurses. It is time that Congress act to create a healthy and safe work environment for nurses so that they can continue to create healthy environments for patients.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate

crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On July 21, 2007, in Hoboken, NJ, two men assaulted a gay couple near a well-known nightclub. They knock the two victims to the ground, beat them, and shouted antigay slurs. After noticing the attack, a bouncer at a nearby nightclub chased the two men down the street and held them until police arrived. The attackers now face charges of assault and bias intimidation. Police Captain Anthony Romano confirmed for reporters that the attackers hit the two men because they were gay.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Matthew Shepard Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

HONORING FREDERICK "TIM" MCCLINTOCK

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor one of the Senate's own, a man who went above and beyond the call of duty to save another's life.

Frederick "Tim" McClintock has been a fixture in the Senate for over 30 years. He is a skilled carpenter and a familiar face in the Senate.

He has come to my office on numerous occasions to perform various tasks. He does his job well and is always ready with a smile and a kind word.

Yet, on Friday, July 6, 2007, Tim McClintock was confronted with a terrible scene, well outside the routine of the Senate.

As he headed home at the end of the day, he noticed a man laying face down in the reflecting pool in Lower Senate Park. Without hesitation, Tim McClintock came to his aid. He turned the man over and performed CPR until he was resuscitated. Then with the assistance of a Capitol Police officer, he pulled the man out of the water.

That afternoon, Tim McClintock selflessly and courageously saved a man from drowning.

He would deny that he is a hero.

He was quoted in Roll Call newspaper as saying, "A hero is someone who risks their own well-being or life. The worst that was going to happen to me is that my feet would get wet."

His modesty is astounding.

The fact is that acts of compassion and bravery such as these display the true character of a man.

On that day, Tim McClintock demonstrated quick thinking, resourcefulness, bravery, and, above all, compassion and humanity for a stranger. The brave actions that Friday afternoon, as many others rushed home eager to start the weekend, were the actions of a true hero.

So, on behalf of the Senate, I commend the heroism of Frederick "Tim" McClintock, who on July 6, 2007, demonstrated the principles of kindness, bravery, and compassion that we value so much.

TRIBUTE TO SENATOR THOMAS

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an Albert Caswell tribute entitled "The Promise of Thomas" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

THE PROMISE OF THOMAS

The promise of Thomas
Wyo, Craig Thomas, Cowboys and The Marines
Are some of the greatest dam things, this
our country has ever seen
Walk soft,
But, carry a big heart . . . A straight shooter,
The Promise of Thomas
Surely, this was Craig's greatest of parts . . .
as what his life so surely means
A cowboy, from the great wide west
A hero who worn the uniform, A Marine . . .
one of America's Best
Then, upon House and Senate floors . . . as a
legislator . . . his state and country
he'd bless
He was so kind, and ever so cool . . .
He was nobody's patsy nor anybody's fool,
following The Golden Rule
Understated, not complicated . . . just the
way God created, a beautiful calm
western scene
A Father and a Friend,
A Devoted and Loving Husband . . .
As has been this life of a patriot, time and
again . . .
A man of the land,